



# 2024

## A YEAR IN REVIEW



In 2024, the Shuswap Band Administration and Health Team celebrated a year marked by significant accomplishments and robust community involvement, while reaffirming their commitment to preserving Secwepemc culture and the environment.

Guided by a dedicated Council they successfully advanced various initiatives and events for the Shuswap community.

As we reflect on this fruitful year, there is a palpable sense of optimism for the future, with a strong focus on continuing efforts in community engagement, cultural preservation, and environmental stewardship to further enhance their success in the years ahead.



Inside are some of the year's highlights:



# Meet the NEW members to our Team:



**Manon Moreau**  
Territorial Stewardship Director



**Barb Fackelmayer**  
Territorial Stewardship Program Coordinator



**Meghan Anderson**  
Senior Wildlife Biologist, Territorial Stewardship



**Nate Medinski**  
Fisheries Biologist, Territorial Stewardship



**Jeff Skopyk**  
Senior Project Manager  
Kenpesq't Territorial Operations



**Aaron Lee**  
Forestry Manager  
Kenpesq't Territorial Operations





# Chief & Council



Pictured: BC Hydro's Executive Vice President, Al Leonard, Kukpi7 Barb Cote, Councillor Mark Thomas, and Councillor Richard Martin



Shuswap Band, Squilax - Simpcw Splatsin - Neskonlith and Adams Lake Chief and councillors and technical team and some elders.

Here's a quick look at some of the meetings our elected council attended in 2024: Columbia River Treaty talks, monthly Shuswap Nation Tribal Council All Chiefs meetings, the 3rd Annual Ceremonial Salmon Release, the Annual Salmon Festival, BC Hydro signing and celebration (see above picture) quarterly Columbia Collaborative meetings, (see above picture), SKIP meetings, quarterly band membership meetings, biweekly Chief and Council meetings, portfolio-themed meetings (like wildlife, parks/recreation/health/finance, etc.), biweekly health and safety meetings, biweekly directors meetings, and the Christmas Party for Shuswap Band members.

Gearing up for 2025 meetings, celebrations, and ceremony out on the land.





Shuswap hosted seven sister communities for the "Unity Ride 2024", up at Dogleg Lake, July 16-18. An annual event that has the campfires from across the Secwepemculecw nation, travel together, renew friendships, visit with family, create new ties and make some lasting memories







# Administration

**Jill Edwardsen, Human Resource Director, and Interim Executive Director,** handling everything from policies and employee relations to payroll, benefits, and keeping things safe and compliant!



Jill Edwardsen  
HR Director &  
Interim Executive Director

Jill has been working with every department to make sure everything is running smoothly and following the rules, like the Canada Labor Code, Human Rights Act, PIPEDA, and other important laws. She also makes sure we're all staying on the right track with health and safety and employment standards.

Here are a few things that were done this past year:

**Policy Overhaul:** We gave the Shuswap Band's old Policy and Procedures Manual a makeover, making it up-to-date and adding cultural elements with the help of our Culture Team. It's now called Practices and Ways, and it's one step closer to our goal of self-governance.

**Finance Makeover:** Helped reorganize the Finance Department.

**New Disability Management Process:** We created a process that follows all Labor Laws to help manage disabilities in the workplace.

**Safety Check:** We did a Health and Safety gap analysis with Irwin Safety to make sure we're all staying safe on the job.

**Hiring and Training:** We've been busy hiring awesome new talent and developing an ALP program for leadership growth. Plus, we've identified key training programs to help staff grow and succeed.

**New Hires:** We've welcomed a bunch of great new team members, including the Territorial Stewardship Director and Kenpesq't General Manager.

**Employee Growth:** Our team is growing fast! In just a few years, we've gone from 20 employees in 2021 to 60 employees today!

Here's to more growth, development, and another great year ahead!





Gladys Sam, Sandy Dehart, Angela Eugene, & Lisa Kraig



The administration department is responsible for a wide range of tasks that ensure the smooth operation of Shuswap Band Offices. They are responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the office, including managing office supplies and equipment, organizing files, and ensuring that the office runs efficiently

#### **Who are we:**

**Angela Eugene, Office Manager** is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the office, including supervising administrative staff, managing office supplies and equipment, and ensuring that the office runs smoothly.

**Gladys Sam, Executive Assistant** acts as the support person for company executives, and political or government officials. Executive Assistants help with various administrative and organizational needs, such as setting up appointments and overseeing schedules. Acting as a gatekeeper, an Executive Assistant helps to decide which phone calls, emails, or in-person meetings get through the Chief and Council. They also conduct business with other colleagues or external vendors on behalf of their executives.

**Lisa Kraig, Communications & Event Coordinator** manages event details, coordinates vendors, and ensures smooth execution, while also handling content creation, media inquiries, and strategies to enhance the organization's brand and reputation.

**Sandy Dehart, Receptionist** at the Administration building and **Stephanie Miller, Receptionist** at the **Health Center**, create a welcoming environment for the organization, its clients, and guests. As well as provide administrative help.

#### **Current projects that are in progress:**

The administration team at the Shuswap Band is new and has achieved notable success in their roles. All members have been cross trained in all responsibilities within both the administration and health buildings. Our next significant initiative is to organize and sort all existing files for secure upload to a server. This will help safeguard important documents from loss, damage, or destruction due to unforeseen events such as fire.

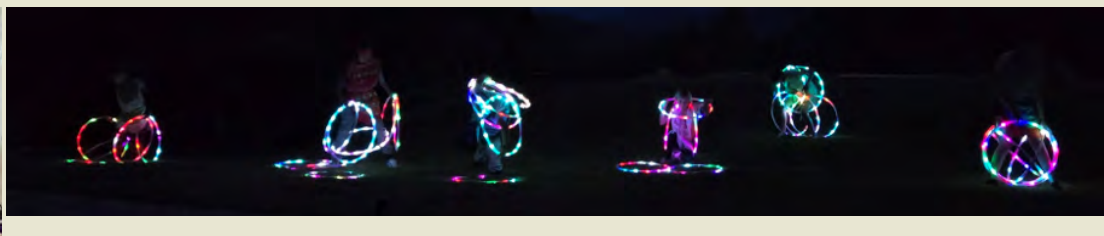
We are currently developing a community application aimed at providing real-time information to our members. This tool will enhance communication during emergencies as well as facilitate everyday interactions.





# Culture & Language

- Silent Speakers
- Start of Accelerated Language Program
- Language Learning in Schools
- Cultural Knucwetwe'cw
- Renaming Ceremony of Letwíc7u'í'ecw
- Red Dress Walk
- Mother's & Father's Day Celebrations
- Hoop Dance Performances
- Salmon Release & Festival
- Pride Windows
- Harvesting
- Supported Year End & Summer Program activities/trips
- TPR Certificate with Alps
- Drumming & Singing
- Stsmemelt
- Truth & Reconciliation Event
- Bobby Burns
- Regalia Making
- Canada Park Events
- National Indigenous Veteran's Day
- LED Hoops







# Education

## Education Initiatives in the Past Year

### Overnight Band Trips for Families

- The summer trips of 2024 were spent deepening community relationships and building new friendships
- Children and families trying new experiences and learning about themselves
- The Sunshine Houseboats Waterpark brought out the bravery, courage and accomplishment of many!

### Language Learning Initiatives with the Language and Culture Department

- Developed the structure and funding for
- Accelerated Language Learning Program – 7 Band members on track to be proficient in Secwepémc language in the next 18 months
- Language Remembering Program – accessed by 36 Band Members

### The Local Education Agreement has been signed by Kupki7 Barb with School District 6.

- additional education supports will be provided to all Band children by the school district beginning during the 2024/2025 school year.

### Post-Secondary Education

**January – April 2024 we had 7 band members in post-secondary classes.** The courses that are being taken range from Indigenous Studies to Anthropology.

**September – December 2024 we have 6 band members in post-secondary.** These courses range from Esthetics to Bachelor's degree in Indigenous Language Fluency.



Chenoa Paccagnan, Brent Wilson,  
& Kaylene Earl





# Finance



**Wanda Laboucan**

Interim Finance Supervisor/ Accounts Receivable  
& Taxation Administrator



**Candice Sam**

Accounts Payable

- Our new accounting system went live in January, and for the first time, people outside of finance can access it to view, input, and run their own reports. This system now stores all our finance documents, and we've gotten rid of other programs, making things run smoother. It'll also allow auditors to do the yearly audit remotely.
- The new ADP payroll system launched in April, which connects to the accounting system, helping us get more accurate project costing and billing.
- We switched banks and, as a result, earned a lot more interest income this past year thanks to better rates.
- We've been cleaning up AR in the KWSC and SB accounts from previous years and now have the ability to track things at the project level, so budgeting will be more accurate going forward.

## What's Coming Up:

- we will soon launch Phase 3, which will integrate timesheets with projects and costing.
- We'll start producing quarterly financial statements for Council and the membership, and the goal is to move to monthly statements.
- We'll keep streamlining processes across finance and the organization.
- We're setting up a Finance Audit and Investment Committee with qualified band members and Council.
- We're moving to direct deposit for all payments.

The Shuswap Band is currently recruiting for a Certified Public Accountant to join the team. In the meantime, we have MNP providing interim support to ensure the continuity of our financial operations.



# Guardians

## Joshua Martin, Shuswap Guardian Manager

Throughout this year, the guardians have worked very hard and been present in almost every corner of our territory. We have participated in many projects and programs and spent an extraordinary amount of time on the land.



Tanner Gresiuk, Sophia Thomas, Sheila Fontaine, Corey Stevens, Dave Pascal

I want to extend our best wishes and very happy holidays to the community.

Here are some of the Guardians' experiences throughout the year.

## Corey Stevens, Guardian Supervisor

This marks my second year with the Guardian program, and it has been an incredible journey. Watching both the program and myself grow has been deeply rewarding. As one of the founding Guardians, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to help launch this initiative. While I anticipated some initial challenges, I was confident the program would evolve into its success today—and I look forward to seeing it continue to thrive in the future.

This year, I had the privilege of contributing to several meaningful projects within our community and other First Nations communities. One of the highlights was collaborating with the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) and the Ktunaxa Nation Guardians at the *kł c'p'áik stím* Hatchery. This marked the second consecutive year that the three bands have worked together, strengthening partnerships and sharing knowledge.

At the hatchery, the ONA team guided us through their annual operations, providing hands-on experience with critical tasks. These included using seine nets to catch salmon, carefully harvesting eggs from females (does), and fertilizing them with milt from males (bucks). The fertilized eggs are then nurtured in the lab until they are mature enough to be tagged and studied for ongoing research. Once ready, the young salmon are released into designated areas to help reintroduce the species and restore salmon populations in these regions.

This collaboration has been invaluable, not only for the technical skills I've gained but also for the opportunity to work alongside other Guardians and deepen connections with communities committed to conservation and revitalization efforts.

Another significant highlight of the year was the opportunity to utilize my background in archaeology on a project based on my own land. This experience allowed me not only to contribute my expertise but also to guide and mentor fellow Guardians in working on archaeological sites. Sharing my passion for archaeology and providing hands-on training was deeply rewarding, as it fostered a deeper understanding of the importance of preserving cultural heritage while working on development projects.



This particular project supported the Band's housing development initiative, balancing the need for growth with the preservation of ancestral lands and artifacts. It was incredibly fulfilling to be part of a collaborative effort that honoured both our traditions and the practical needs of our community. The experience reinforced the importance of combining technical knowledge with cultural respect, and it strengthened my connections with my peers as we worked toward a common goal.

Throughout the summer, Tanner Gresiuk and I collaborated with Parks Canada and five other Shuswap Bands on a series of projects within Yoho, Glacier, Revelstoke, and Kootenay National Parks. Our work involved exploring our traditional territories to document pre-contact archaeological sites and record the presence of medicinal plants significant to our cultural heritage.

In addition to these research activities, we actively engaged with the public, sharing insights into the rich traditional knowledge and history of the area. These interactions provided an opportunity to educate visitors on the cultural and ecological importance of these lands while fostering a deeper understanding of the Shuswap people's connection to them.

Equally important was our presence on the land itself, which allowed us to reconnect with these territories and reinforce the living traditions that continue to tie our community to these spaces. This multifaceted experience emphasized the importance of collaboration, cultural preservation, and education.

(Pictures of my activities can be seen below)

Releasing Salmon in the  
Columbia Valley



Pittagging salmon



Salmon eggs that have  
been activated





Crooks meadow  
in the Kootenay Parks



Natural Bridge in  
Yoho National Park



Emerald lake in  
YOHO National Park



## Shelia Fontaine: Guardian

### Archeology site visits:

My favourite one was in Castlegar. I was working with Mike Taylor. The area covered was from Brilliant to Playmor Junction. It was a large area, and we took the boat every day for the week to different sites.

Some of the sites included:

- Burial Cairns
- Small Islands
- Beach fronts
- Caves

Every day, we would go on the boat to one of their sites and do visual assessments.

We went to the location of the burial cairns and came across a handful of cairns.

One that really stood out to me was one that looked like the rocks were made into a headstone.

It was more significant than the others. There were rocks in a square at the top of it, and rocks were placed nicely inside it.





Another site was a beachfront where we found about 22 cultural depressions.

These depressions had big and smaller ones beside them, possibly cache pits. It was an amazing feeling, almost like you could feel the presence of our ancestors there. I could visualize a big camp, children playing, and people by the fires.

Walking around, we found lithics on the ground showing the reminisce of our ancestors.



On the smaller island, we encountered some culturally modified trees, did a visual walk, and also encountered smaller depressions.

We were told by the Arch branch that there were pictographs found by a few hikers back in 1977. They gave the location or the coordinates to where they found them, which was located in a cave. A couple of the crew members went up into that area, as it was a steep climb, and checked it out. They looked around but could not find the pictograph or a cave. So, we all went back to the boat, and we went along the rock wall of the water, looking for potential caves. One of the crew members spotted something above us that looked like a cave, so we pulled up the boat to the Rockwall, and a few of them went up to investigate. They found The Cave, so we all went up. Lo and behold, just above The Cave, there was a pictograph which looked like two people celebrating with a child, and above them, there were also pictures of a fire and the four-direction wheel. There were two pictographs in the actual cave itself.



This was so exciting because it was the first time that the feeling you get when you go into The Cave had been documented. It was amazing to know that our ancestors were there.

I interpreted myself as a parent with a child showing happiness and celebration. I thought maybe the younger child was going on a vision quest.

I'm so genuinely grateful to be part of this and to represent the Shuswap band with the utmost respect, and I am proud to be part of this community.

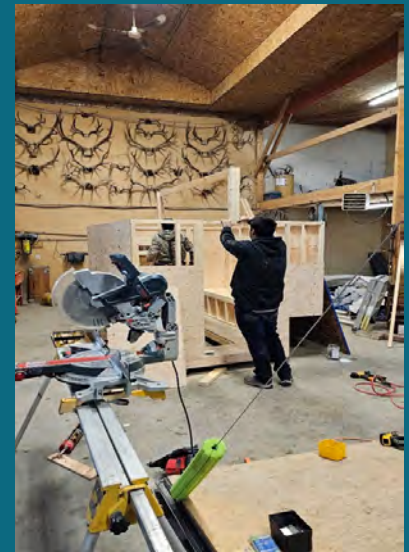


**Thank you for giving me this great opportunity.**

## Zaylyn Stevens, Guardian

In late 2024, I began my work with the Shuswap Guardians, an experience that led me to engage in a wide range of meaningful and impactful activities across various fields. This role allowed me to gain hands-on experience in archaeology and fisheries, where I contributed to important projects and research aimed at preserving and enhancing the local environment. Additionally, I had the opportunity to support the community in a more direct way by assisting at the community woodlot. I was involved in chopping and delivering firewood to elders, ensuring they had the resources they needed to stay warm during the colder months.

Furthermore, I contributed to the construction of a community ice fishing hut, an initiative that not only served the Guardian program but also provided a valuable resource for the wider community. This experience broadened my skill set and deepened my connection to both the land and the people of the community, fostering a greater understanding of the interconnectedness of environmental stewardship and community well-being.



## Tanner Gresiuk, Guardian Supervisor

Joining the Guardian team in June and taking on the Secwepemc Guardians program in four national parks, I had the honour and great pleasure of exploring these traditional territories. I documented archeological sites, medicinal plants, harvesting areas, and interfacing with the public, sharing the cultural importance of these lands, plants, animals, and sites.

The highlights of that specific program are plentiful, with some outstanding examples. I had the pleasure of taking three members of Splatsin to an area of Kootenay National Park known as Kaufmann Lake. This was no small task as it was over a twenty-kilometer hike one way, ascending through the old forest fires that occurred in 2007. Arriving at the lake, I was greeted by a peregrine falcon and an abundance of crystalline quartz artifacts scattered around the lake. On top of this, we were also able to locate the procurement source of the material high above the lake in several adits. Of which we were able to recover and return with raw material for our comparative sample collection. This journey was not only a challenge but one that created bonds and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Another standout of the Secwepemc Guardian program was the collaborative work with the National Parks fisheries department on monitoring whirling disease in the waterways of Yoho National Park. This work stretches through several waterways, from the Kicking Horse River to the Kootenay River. The monitoring consists of sentinel traps that house trout throughout the year and test them at the end of the season to determine the travel and spread of whirling disease through the waterways.





Eva Lake  
Mount Revelstoke National Park



Hiking into Kaufmann Lake  
Kootenay National Park

Highlights of the year closer to home and within our community include the work and presentations I participated in at the Salmon festival, explaining the various types of material used in tool making and where they are sourced.

I also found it very rewarding to support the community through various projects, such as splitting firewood, setting up protections for homes during fire season, and setting up/tearing down events.

Working with our fisheries department was also an incredible experience. We trapped and tagged burbot in Columbia and Windermere lakes. The specimens we tagged in Columbia Lake are the largest documented in nearly twenty years, which was amazing to see and be a part of. In addition to the trapping and tagging, temperature monitoring of creeks and rivers from Fairmont to Golden is a task that the Guardian program has taken on and will continue to monitor. These waterways are vital to our fish populations, and the data collected will give us a deeper understanding of what our waters are doing throughout the year.

Our annual hunting trip was also a great experience. We harvested a bull elk and learned traditional methods. Sharing stories and experiences at camp was a highlight of the year.

In summary, being part of the Guardian program and working in several different departments has been a fulfilling and rewarding experience. I look forward to all the work to come and supporting the community in all its aspects.





Five-point bull elk, Hunting camp



Takakkaw Falls, Yoho National Park



Crystalline quartz, from the procurement source above Kaufmann Lake



Burbot tagging in Columbia Lake.



Flint knapping practice





Cave found above Marble Canyon  
Kootenay National Park



Unity Ride ceremony  
Mount Revelstoke National Park



Miller Lake, Mount Revelstoke National Park



Caribou Cabin  
Mount Revelstoke National Park







Kaufmann Lake crew, Kootenay National Park



Secwepmc Guardians, First meeting, Yoho National Park



# Health



*Happy Holidays  
from your Health  
Team*

Back row: Left to right: Stephanie Miller, Deb Hoag, Gerard Gregoire, Don Delvin, Beth Castellano.  
Jan Cahill and Danielle Armstrong in the front row.



This year, the Health Department focused on strengthening community connections, promoting wellness, and expanding services to meet the needs of our community. We've celebrated milestones, launched new programs, and provided vital ongoing support. **We are happy to announce that the Shuswap Health Department has been moved to a flexible block ten-year agreement that has approved by FNHA (First Nation Health Authority).**

Our Wellness Days brought the community together twice this year, with record-breaking attendance at both events. Participants engaged in various activities promoting mental, physical, and emotional well-being. **World Health Day** was celebrated with a vibrant **Family Fun Day** at the Akisqnuq Recreation Centre, fostering a sense of togetherness and community pride. During Mental Health Week, a creative Take-Home Bingo Wellness Game encouraged participation and rewarded winners with fun prizes, bringing mental health conversations into homes. We also held a Family Fun Day to create a sense of fire smart readiness for the community. We partnered with Akisqnuq first nation and Fire smart teams within BC.

We also hosted educational events focused on **harm reduction** and **opioid agonist therapy**, ensuring that community members and service providers have the knowledge and tools to support one another. Overdose Awareness Day featured a powerful art installation and community gathering, creating space for reflection, healing, and advocacy. National Addictions Awareness Week provided a space for connection and healing with the land through a private soak at the Radium Hot Springs in Collaboration with Parks Canada and a night of Dinner and Dancing.



**New Programs and Services:** This year, we introduced several exciting initiatives to expand our support for the community.

**Youth Night Program:** A weekly event for youth aged 12–18, providing a safe and welcoming space for connection, activities, and learning.

**Acupuncture and Thai Massage Services:** Available every Wednesday, these services have been a wonderful addition to our wellness offerings, helping community members address stress, pain, and overall health.

**Physiotherapy** was added to our health services for community members to have safe free access to physio supports. Lisa has currently resigned from her position with the Primary Care Network (PCN) and will keep community informed once a new hire has been made. Psychiatric nurse funding was received through the PCN for the community. Jan Cahill has agreed to fill this position with the community. Liaison between mental health services and psychiatry referrals can be made through Jan at our health center.

We offered two **Cariboo tufting workshops** to support with traditional wellness.



**Le7 te Melamen Health Society** was formed with the other 16 Secwepemc communities in September of 2024. Danielle was on the formation interim Board of Directors to get the society up and running from March 2024- September 2024. At the AGM in Kamloops this past September **Linda Hemlock** was appointed as our **Area Representative** and will be our community voice at all meetings. This new society has moved away from SNTC with management of our health funds and this new society will allow for more funding to flow to communities directly, moving forward.

**Ongoing Supports:** We remain committed to providing essential ongoing support that enhances the well-being of our community. These include:

- **Harm reduction education, supplies, and recovery programs**, in collaboration with ANKORS, Interior Health, and EKASS. **Bill Ward** has journeyed with our community for the past year supporting community members with exploring treatment readiness and recovery supports.
- **Elders' programs**, including monthly trips to Cranbrook, weekly meal deliveries and bingo afternoons.
- The **Good Food Box program**, offers affordable, nutritious food every other week.
- Access to healthcare through the **Doctor's Clinic, foot care, and dietician services**. In collaboration with our **community nurse**.
- We held two **crock pot cooking** sessions where community was able to participate in making six freezer meals and took home a crock pot to cook for a later date.
- **Trauma informed circles and women circles** have been offered throughout the year with our Mental wellness clinician Andrea Sakamoto. You can book an appointment with Andrea by calling our health center.

### **Team updates:**

Akisqnuq First Nation and Shuswap Band health teams collaborated on "Male survivors of sexual assault" training. We also held a "wrap around training" and will be using this approach for all health services moving forward.

Congratulations to Deb Hoag and Donald Devlin for achieving their level three First Aid to bring additional supports for the community.

**Looking back at 2024, we are proud of what we've achieved together. Thank you to everyone who participated, contributed, and helped make our events and services meaningful. We look forward to continuing this health, wellness, and community journey in the coming year.**

# Housing & Social

## Dolores Nicholas

### Housing:

Shuswap Band has purchased 4 Tiny Cabins, the cabins will be located at Village Loop Rd. The cabins should be ready by April 2025. Shuswap Housing is installing more Solar Panels. Housing inspections in Rental Units will be done in January 2025.

The inspections are necessary to determine if there are repairs needed. Please remember to check their furnace filter.

### Social Assistance:

If you need any beds or bedding, kitchen items, end tables or lamps please contact Dolores at 250-341-3678.



Dolores Nicholas  
Housing & Social Director



*Have a Happy and Safe  
Holiday Season and the Best  
to You and Your Family  
for 2025!*







# Kinbasket Water & Sewer



Vaughn Taylor, Operations Supervisor



Gage Martin  
Utility Operator



Jesse St. John  
Utility Operator



## **Kinbasket community well house** ( Pumphouse upgrade)

KWSC completed the well needed infrastructure upgrades to the Kinbasket community well house, this includes: 120ft of new watermain leaving the pump-house, new fire-hydrant for fire protection and new stainless steel internal piping. KWSC completed all the underground civil work in house.

As the manager I couldn't be more proud of Jesse St john and Gage Martin.

## **Stoddart Creek water system** ( new treatment plant )

The Stoddart Creek water system throughout the years have had continuous bacteriological issues causing Continuous Boil Water & water quality advisories. This Upgrade was well needed for the protection of our community. The new treatment plant is a sea-can unit housing filters, UV treatment, Chlorine dosing and a new flow meter that can and will be utilized for measuring consumption & aiding us with the ability to complete leak detection. We are very proud of this project as it gives us the ability to produce clean, treated, potable water for the community.

## **Operator acknowledgement**

Jesse St. John became a level 1 water distribution operator and is on his way to achieving his wastewater treatment level 1 as well. We are all very proud of him and we can't wait to see him achieve his goals while he grows with the business unit!

Gage Martin is currently working on his level 1 and we are eager to see him succeed & become a certified operator. He is an excellent young man, and he is on his way to achieving his goals.

We look forward to seeing you all while we are out maintaining the water & wastewater systems.





# Lands, Utilities & Public Works



Mike Stevens, Sierra Stump, Tyler MacKay, Floyd Sam, Curtis Johnson



*From Lands & Public  
Works we wish you all a Merry  
Christmas & a  
Happy New Year!!*



# Territorial Stewardship



Barb Fackelmayer,  
Manon Moreau, Scott  
Cope, Meghan Anderson,  
Nate Medinski, & Travis  
Yeats



## About Us

The Territorial Stewardship Office is responsible for ensuring the natural resources of the Shuswap Band's Caretaker Area are cared for and protected. We engage in initiatives related to fisheries, wildlife, mining, water, forestry and so much more. We work closely with Chief and Council on files related to rights and title. We also work closely with guardians, culture, heritage, and Kenpesq't.

We are:

- o Manon Moreau, Director
- o Scott Cope, Sr. Fisheries Biologist
- o Braydi Rice, Sr. Fisheries Biologist (parental leave)
- o Nathan Medinski, Intermediate Fisheries Biologist
- o Meghan Anderson, Sr. Wildlife Biologist
- o Barb Fackelmayer, Program Coordinator
- o Travis Yeats, Referrals Coordinator
- o Intermediate Wildlife Biologist, vacant (recruitment underway)

## Some highlights from 2024

- We are managing approximately 78 different funding and contribution agreements with Canada, BC, Columbia Basin Trust, Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, and various proponents such as Canfor.
- We processed over 950 consultation referrals to date in 2024 through Nations Connect!
- We supported the negotiation of a variety of relationship agreements including the BC Hydro Relationship Agreement signed at the Lion's hall on June 11. [Shuswap Band, BC Hydro sign historic relationship agreement - Columbia Valley Pioneer](#)
- We implement a variety of relationship agreements signed in prior years including Parks Canada. Through this agreement, we work collaboratively on a number of projects with Parks Canada such as the 75th anniversary of the Radium aquacourts. [Significant federal infrastructure improvements completed at Radium Hot Springs in Kootenay National Park - Canada.ca](#)
- We celebrated Councillor Mark Thomas receiving the Conservation Leadership Award 2024 from the Kootenay Conservation Program in Rossland. [2024 - Kootenay Conservation Program](#)
- Revelstoke Stewardship Initiative – agreement amongst 5 affected Secwepemc communities to develop a comprehensive cultural and stewardship plan for the Revelstoke TSA.



## The Wildlife Team Year in Review

It's been a year of change and new projects for the wildlife team. In February and March the Shuswap Band captured 12 bighorn sheep and equipped them with GPS collars to monitor the effectiveness of the Radium Wildlife Overpass. The GPS collar data will also be used to identify important habitat and behaviour characteristics of the Radium Bighorn Sheep herd and improve management of the herd. This project was funded by the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

In April Meghan Anderson, the new senior wildlife biologist started with the Shuswap Band. She is excited to be here, serve the community, and work on all the very interesting and important Shuswap



Councillor Martin and Guardian Don Dehart with a ram that was collared in February.

If you are a hunter, you can drop off a head at the freezer at the abattoir for testing or if you want to collect the samples yourself, we have testing kits available for anyone that is interested. Our program was reported on the in the Pioneer.

In the fall we also surveyed roads between Invermere and Brisco to identify mitigation actions to help prevent badgers from being hit on roads. Badgers will use dry, clean culverts if they are available, which can help reduce mortality. We identified 22 culverts that needed to be cleaned, and 9 culverts that needed small modifications to be more badger friendly. We also identified two locations where a new culvert and fencing could help badgers and are looking into funding to complete this work.

We are excited about this year's progress and we are looking forward next year and the exciting work we have on the books for elk, caribou, badgers, bighorn sheep, bats, painted turtles, and flammulated owls.

A juvenile painted turtle found floating on a vegetation mat.

Band projects. There is lots of wildlife work, too much for one person; we continue to look for an intermediate wildlife biologist, spread the word and let folks know what a great place this is to work!

In the spring we hosted a workshop on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and the guardians and Meghan learned how sample for CWD. In the fall we started our own program to monitor for chronic wasting disease in deer, elk, and moose.



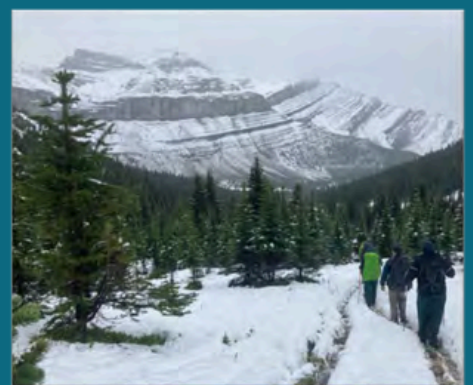
Guardian Shelly Tardif and Meghan Anderson survey for turtles along the Columbia River.



## Fisheries Team Year in Review

It was an action-packed year for Shuswap Band's Fisheries Team! We completed several projects, including:

- Temperature monitoring in the upper Columbia River basin (48 sites). Important for understanding impacts from climate or land use changes on suitable fish habitat and where fish are found in the region.
- Temperature monitoring and habitat assessments to inform future salmon re-introduction in the middle and lower Columbia River basin, near Revelstoke, Nakusp and Castlegar (60 sites).
- Burbot (ling) population monitoring and telemetry tagging in Columbia and Windermere lakes, in partnership with BC Government staff. It is important to understand current burbot population status and habitat use to inform future species recovery efforts.
- Whirling disease sampling in the upper Columbia River basin. Sampled fish and water for eDNA at several sites between Columbia Lake and Kinbasket Lake. This will improve our understanding of whether whirling disease is present in the upper Columbia basin outside of Yoho National Park, where it was first detected in 2023.
- Worked in partnership with Parks Canada on a project to remove non-native fish species (Brook Trout) from Olive Lake, using a chemical called rotenone. Future efforts will focus on restoring native Westslope Cutthroat Trout to Olive Lake. Also worked with Parks Canada staff to assess fish in their sentinel cage in the Kootenay River for whirling disease, and to remove remote egg incubators from Hidden Lake as part of another native fish restoration project.
- Purchased and put to work Shuswap Band's first Fisheries boat, Stqwmétkwe.



From left to right: Spawning Kokanee salmon in Deer Creek, near Castlegar; A burbot (ling) captured in Windermere Lake and tagged to study movement patterns; Shuswap Band's boat, Stqwmétkwe, loaded with cod traps for a days work on Columbia Lake; Shuswap Band Junior Salmon Chief, Devin Capilo, and Parks Canada staff hiking down after retrieving remote egg incubators from Hidden Lake, near Lake Louise in Banff National Park.





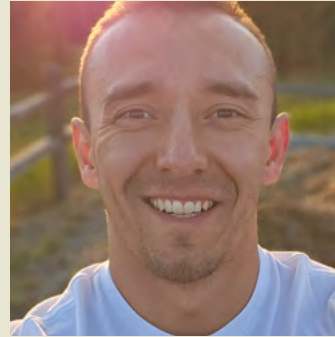
# Kenpesq't Holdings



TJ Neault  
General Manager



Jarret St. John  
Business Opportunity Manager



Jeff Skopyk  
Senior Project Manager



Aaron Lee  
Forestry Manager

## Kenpesq't Year in Review

This year marked a period of remarkable growth and transformation for Kenpesq't. Starting the year with just one consultant, Kenpesq't has expanded to five staff members and an additional three dedicated to Kinbasket Water and Sewer Company (KWSC). Kenpesq't has evolved into a group of dynamic companies, each driving progress in key sectors:

- **Kenpesq't Territorial Operations (KTO):** Focused on growing archaeology, environmental science, and other ventures, KTO completed two major archaeology projects and is laying the groundwork for a dedicated archaeology firm.
- **Kenpesq't Construction:** Achieved significant milestones, including wrapping up BC Hydro projects in Revelstoke, launching a substantial Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) highway twinning project, and establishing vital service and relationship agreements with major local mining companies. These agreements are creating a stable foundation for long-term success.
- **Kenpesq't Forestry:** Completed a Ministry of Forests wildfire guard rehabilitation program, advanced a sizable wildfire risk reduction (WRR) project in Dry Gulch, and secured new WRR projects on the Toby Benches and in Banff National Park through a competitive bid. Foundational partnerships with large forest license holders are also under development, including new service agreements.
- **Kenpesq't Investments:** Continued exploring high-value opportunities, such as the TC Energy pipeline equity stake.

A key highlight of the year has been Kenpesq't's evolution from relying on external companies to complete projects to becoming the prime contractor. This shift represents a significant step forward in self-reliance and capability.

With diverse projects underway across all companies and foundational relationships established for sustained growth, Kenpesq't is well-positioned for even greater achievements in the coming year. This year's successes are a testament to our team's vision, determination, and dedication to building a brighter future.



### Contact Us

-  3A-492 Arrow Road, Invermere, BC V0A 1K2
-  250.341.3678
-  [www.shuswapband.net](http://www.shuswapband.net)
-  [comms@shuswapband.ca](mailto:comms@shuswapband.ca)